

Message Text

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62

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4234

UNCLAS SUVA 892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, FJ

SUBJ: IV GRANT FOR FIJIAN LABOR LEADER

REF: STATE 170384

1. REFTEL SUGGESTED SUVA CONSIDER TULSI RAM SHARMA FOR IV GRANT IN CONNECTION WITH AFL-CIO CONFERENCE. SHARMA IS RETIRED AND HAS BEEN INACTIVE IN LABOR MOVEMENT FOR SOME YEARS. HIS ORGANIZATION, THE FIJI INDUSTRIAL WORKERS CONGRESS NO LONGER EXISTS BUT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A NEW BODY THE FIJI TRADE UNIONS CONGRESS (FTUC). EMBASSY THEREFORE DOESNOT FEEL SHARMA IS APPROPRIATE CNNDIDATE FOR IV GRANT.

2. PROPOSE INSTEAD THAT JAMES RAMAN, SECRETRRY OF THE FTUC BE INVITED TO ATTEND. RAMAN WAS SCHEDULED FOR PARTIAL IV GRANT LAST DECEMBER BUT WAS UNABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. AT THE TIME DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS. WE BELIEVE HE STILL IS EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR LABOR PROGRAMMING.

3. RAMAN MAY BE ATTENDING MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE AND WILL INFORM EMBASSY EARLY NEXT WEEK OF HIS PLANS. IN MEANTIME WE WOULD APPRECIATE APPROVAL FROM DEPARTMENT AND AFL-CIO TO EXTEND INVITATION TO RAMAN.

HALL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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